THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last three months, a total of 771 touts were apprehended and 14 cases of theft reported.

(c) and (d) Several measures have been taken to curb touts at airports. Local Police and CISF Anti-Tout Cell established by CISF personnel keep vigil to curb possible malpractices by taxi drivers. There is constant monitoring by Terminal Management personnel and surprise inspections by Airports Authority of India (AAI) executives. Surveillance on city side of the terminal buildings has been increased through CCTVs. The amount of fine has also been increased and passengers are educated against falling prey to such touts.

Safety audit of low-cost airlines

*132. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DGCA has received any representation from the Air Passengers Association of India appealing to conduct a safety audit on the low-cost airlines;

(b) if so, the details of the representation received and the action that has been contemplated or proposed to be contemplated by the DGCA;

(c) whether the regulatory authority has ever taken notice of this; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by the authority so far on the safety audit of the low-cost airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, DGCA carries out Safety Audits of Airlines Operators including low-cost airlines from time to time. In the last three years, 32 safety audits of 25 organisations, which includes scheduled, non-scheduled, private and Government organisation have been carried out by DGCA.